

Plan to remove catfish from German lake irks fishermen

By Seth Robson
Stars and Stripes

GRAFENWÖHR, Germany — A catfish controversy has surfaced here over plans to remove 20 of the up-to-8-foot-long predators from Grünhund (Green Dog) Lake — one of 11 fishing lakes inside the training area.

The catfish removal plan was the brainchild of Grafenwöhr Fishing Program director Dale Doeden, who says they could damage the ecosystem in the lake — commonly known as L Lake — by eating too many smaller fish. Doeden advocates lowering lake levels so the catfish can be rounded up.

Opposing him are several Grafenwöhr fishing permit holders who claimed, at a Monday night meeting, that his plan would kill all the fish in the lake, along with the catfish.

Doeden, who has managed the fishing program for eight years, fishes regularly but has not eaten fish since a childhood accident in which he choked on a fish bone. He said he had nothing against catfish. The problem is the number of catfish in L Lake, which, by his estimate, includes more than 20 creatures weighing more than 50 pounds each, he said.

“The Wels catfish found in the lake are native to Germany and are the largest freshwater predators in Europe. A catfish caught at Mainflinger Lake in Hessen was more than 8 feet long and its stomach contained 28 trout, a (2-foot-long) pike, a muskrat and a duck. That’s a lot of eating,” Doeden said.

They mostly feed on other fish. Grafenwöhr’s lakes and three fishing streams have a wide variety of species including brook, rainbow and brown trout; pike; walleye; eel and carp. And keeping the training area’s lakes and streams stocked with fish is expensive. Last year the fishing program, which started 50 years ago, spent \$15,000 restocking lakes. For example, 150 kilograms (68 pounds) of trout — about 200 fish of various sizes — cost 1,000 euros, Doeden said.

Some fishing permit holders said Dichauter Lake, also in the training area, never recovered after a previous fish removal program there two years ago. That lake also was partially drained to remove the catfish.

Doeden defended the Dichauter operation.

“We lowered the water and dragged nets behind boats and by hand and removed at least 10 big catfish. The largest was over 2 meters (2.2 feet)” long, he said.

The lake rebounded quickly after the catfish were taken away, he said.

“Today, you can see ducks and fish in the lake. People are catching more pike and more walleye out there and the lake looks alive, whereas before it did not,” he said.

Some permit holders said doing the same thing at L Lake would be unsafe. The lake, which extends into the main impact area at Grafenwöhr, is believed to be full of unexploded ordnance. L Lake normally can be fished for only two hours in the morning and two hours in the afternoon when there are breaks in firing.

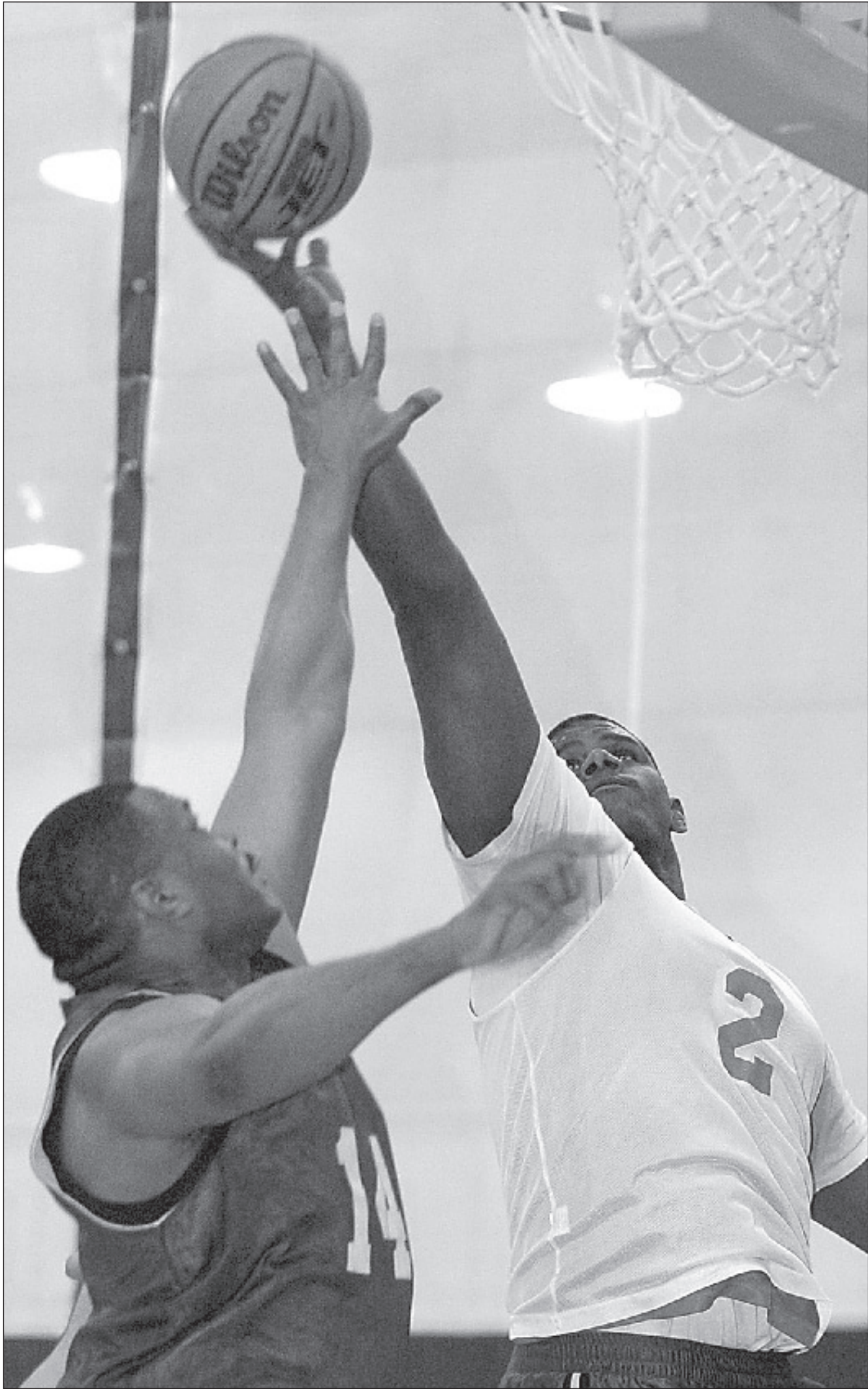
Doeden said 105 mm artillery shells, helicopter rockets, .50-caliber machine-gun rounds and various other bullets were removed from Dichauter Lake by explosive ordnance disposal experts before that catfish roundup.

One permit holder suggested using fish-finding radars to locate the catfish in L Lake instead of lowering the water. But another warned that fish finders might set off the explosives in the lake.

Doeden said he would research the possibility of using fish finders, but he added that the catfish still had to be removed and draining the lake was the best way to do that.

There is likely to be a big influx of fishermen at Grafenwöhr with the arrival of the 2nd Cavalry (Stryker) Regiment at Vilseck this summer from Fort Lewis, Wash., an area where fishing is extremely popular, he said.

Used with permission from Stars and Stripes. (c) 2006 Stars and Stripes. Please do not reprint.



Jason Kaye

Richard Jenkins, left, of W Troop and Darius Robinson of V Troop battle for a rebound during a Wilson League game.

W Troop

Continued from Page B1

“We’ve been waiting to play them all season,” Campbell said. “They’ve been talking trash, but we both had a couple star players out.”

W Troop (7-2) wasted no time taking it to V Troop (3-6). Immediately shifting its fast break into high gear, W Troop opened the game running, scored seven inside baskets and staked itself to a 14-8 lead with 16:10 remaining in the first half.

“That was our game plan,” said Campbell, who triggered the surge from the point guard slot. “We played with a lot of control.”

Overmatched under the basket, V Troop went outside and scored three treys early. A Quentin Dumas

“We’ve been waiting to play them all season. They’ve been talking trash, but we both had a couple star players out.”

Bill Campbell

lay-up with 13:44 left in the first half pulled V Troop to within four points, 17-13.

“I was trying to get the ball inside to my big man, but (W Troop) collapsed on him every time,” said Calvin Quattlebaum, who led V Troop with 16 points. “I can’t do it by myself.”

A 14-0 run by W Troop put the game

away before halftime, however. Campbell had 10 of those points.

W Troop led 39-25 at intermission.

Easley picked up where Campbell left off in the second half. Easley scored 14 points after the break with hard work on the offensive boards, and W Troop triggered the mercy rule by going up by 30 points with 6:33 left on the game clock.

W Troop, which had a pair of losses earlier in the season, seemed to be peaking as the playoffs approached.

“We should have won both of those games,” Campbell said. “We really beat ourselves with turnovers.”

V Troop had to satisfy itself with a spirited effort in a losing cause.

“With the team we had, I think we played good,” Quattlebaum said. “I’m the only starter that was here tonight.”

SPORTS ROUNDUP

FORT LEWIS BASKETBALL STANDINGS (through March 3)

Open League

Team	Wins	Losses
Showtime	4	0
2-8 FA	4	0
Let’s Rumble	2	2
Ballers	1	3
551st Med. Co.	1	3
B Co., 1-24 Inf.	0	4

Last week:
Let’s Rumble **69**, B Co., 1-24 Inf. **47**
2-8 FA **55**, Ballers **44**
Showtime **85**, 551st Med. Co. **55**
Showtime **76**, Let’s Rumble **60**
Let’s Rumble **52**, 551st Med. Co. **39**
2-8 FA **73**, B Co., 1-24 Inf. **54**

Wilson League

Team	Wins	Losses
I Corps	8	1
A Co., 5/5 ADA	7	2
W Troop, 6-2 CR	7	2
585th Eng.	7	2
1st SFG	4	5
547th ASMC	4	5
9th Finance	3	6
V Troop, 6-2 CR	3	6
18th Eng.	2	7
184th MI	0	9

Last week:
547th 7, V Troop **0** (forfeit)
I Corps **52**, 9th Finance **22**
1st SFG 7, 184th MI **0** (forfeit)
W Troop **65**, 585th Eng. **63**
W Troop **63**, V Troop **33**
I Corps **56**, A Co., 5/5 ADA **54**
547th ASMC 7, 9th Finance **0** (forfeit)

Sheridan League

Team	Wins	Losses
24 QM	10	0
MAMC	7	2
HHD, 4-91 Div.	6	3
H Troop, 2-2 Cav.	6	3
HHT, 3-2 Cav.	4	4
209th MI	5	5
P Troop, 4-2 Cav.	5	5
K Troop, 3-2 Cav.	3	6
S Troop, 5-2 Cav.	2	8
A Co., 249 Eng.	1	9
C Troop, 2 CR	0	8

FORT LEWIS BOWLING STANDINGS (through Week 6 of 9)

Team	Points Won	Points Lost
HHC, USAG	20.5	9.5
C Btry., 3/358 FA	20	10
HHD, 23rd Chem	19.5	10.5
4th LSB	18	12
HHD 8 Ballers	18	12
2/364th Black Lions	15	15
5/5 ADA	14	16
1-356th Late Comers	14	16
LSB Outcasts	13	17
RD, 864th Eng.	9	11
673rd Med. Co. #1	6	24
673rd Med Co. #2	6	24

Team Season Highs:
Handicap Series - 4th LSB, **2,542**
Handicap Game - RD, 864th Eng., **883**
Scratch Series - C Btry., 3/358, **1,974**

Last Week’s Team Top Scores:
Handicap Series - RD, 864th Eng., **2,524**
4th LSB, **2,345**

Handicap Game - HHD, 23rd Chem., **812**
673rd Med. Co. #2, **803**

Scratch Series - C Btry., 3/358, **1,787**
HHC, USAG, **1,624**

SOURCE: Fort Lewis Sports Office

Goliath

Continued from Page B1

“We’re not moving the ball as a team,” said James Kelley, a Let’s Rumble player who was filling in as coach against B Co. “It just drives me nuts.”

Things got saner for Kelley in the

second half. Bobby Driver (15 points) opened the final 20 minutes with a trey and a fast-break lay-up off a steal, and Let’s Rumble was ready to do just that.

Where Let’s Rumble had attacked from the outside in the first half, the eventual winners now focused on pounding the ball inside. In a 33-10 spurt, most of the damage was done

from the paint, including two straight dunks by William Wiley.

“If I can just get them to ... go in, play that inside-out game, then those threes will come,” Kelley said. “But we need to concentrate on our defense and go inside a little bit more than what we’re doing.”

Meanwhile, B Co. was having trouble getting anything going offen-

sively against Let’s Rumble’s interior defense.

“It was like, we’d stop them, but we don’t score,” Togiailua said. “When they score, we don’t score.”

B Co. had no answer for Let’s Rumble’s Daralin Lawson, who seemed to score at will. He finished with a game-high 25 points.

Holden led B Co. with 16 points.

Race

Continued from Page B1

“A lot of units ... run it,” Moore said. “The ones that want to do the races ... continue to practice prior to it.”

In the March race a year ago, Shawn Dodge won the men’s category in 25 minutes, 30 seconds. Racquel Obmerga

finished first among women in 32:30. In July, Delford Edison led the men in 28:29, and Sopheany Stevens was the fastest woman in 33:34.

Medallions go to the top three male and female finishers in the following age categories: 18-26, 27-33, 34-39 and 40-plus.

This kicks off an ambitious Fort Lewis race calendar of runs and tri-

athlons that ends with the Turkey Trot in November. The second Gray Army Airfield Run will be held July 13. The entire calendar can be viewed at <http://www.lewis.army.mil/DPCA/Sports/Race%20Calendar2.htm>.

To register for the Gray Army Airfield Run, call Sheridan at 967-7311 or visit www.lewis.army.mil/dpca/sports/grayairfieldrunreg.htm.

Everclear

Continued from Page B1

The band is no stranger to playing morale-boosting shows for troops and has enjoyed its multiple performances on military posts.

“We did a tour of the military bases in Asia. It was a great experience,” Alexakis

said. “For some of the shows we played, like over in Japan, one of the best things is when we’re playing overseas (the troops) appreciate everything American. They might not be the biggest Everclear fans, but they’re appreciative.”

The concert season will continue June 23 when The Lt. Dan Band, with actor Gary Sinise, performs the second act in the joint MWR venture.